

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

# THE VIGILEER

Vol. 51 No. 18

May 20, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

## Fly Bys

### Tire shredder claims

A U.S. Navy team responsible for settling tire-shredder claims will be here June 6 to 10, and will meet with individual claimants in order to enter into settlement agreements to authorize payments, as appropriate, for these claims. More details will be published in an upcoming Vigileer regarding the meetings prior to the Navy team's arrival.

People who have not yet filed a claim, but intend to do so, should call Aviano's Legal Office at Exts. 7844 or 7843 and make an appointment to file a claim before the Navy team arrives. The Navy team plans on settling all claims already filed during their visit. Claims filed after their visit will be settled in the usual course of business by mailing the appropriate documents between the interested legal offices and the claimants.

For more information, call the legal office or send an e-mail to 31fw.ja@aviano.af.mil.

### Racing club car show

The Aviano Racing Club invites the community to its car show 1 p.m.. Sunday in the parking lot of a Roveredo furniture store. Registration begins at 9 a.m. For specific directions, call Ext. 8264.



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

### He can fix it

Tech. Sgt. Donnie DeRise, 31st Maintenance Group, repairs a circuit board part for use on the flightline here. As the NCOIC of Aviano's Air Force Repair Enhancement shop, Sergeant DeRise and his Airmen restore life back into electronic parts deemed useless. See page 9 for more about AFREP.

## Aviano earns top unit award

The 31st Fighter Wing here recently earned the Air Force's top unit award for its outstanding work.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award was awarded to fourteen U.S. Air Forces in Europe numbered units and their subordinates, including the 31st FW.

The 31st FW won largely for its support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Joint Forge.

The AFOUA is given for accomplishments of a national or international significance which clearly set the unit above and apart from similar units for meritorious service.

This is the tenth time the 31st FW has won this award. It was actually the first wing ever to win the award Feb. 23, 1954.

Airmen must have been stationed here between Oct. 2, 2002 and Sept. 30, 2004, in order to wear the Air Force Outstanding Unit award ribbon. People can call Exts. 7216 or 7528 for more information. (31st FW Public Affairs and Master Sgt. Niklaas Waller, 31st FW Historian)

**Life-threatening emergency?** Call the Italian authorities by dialing 118. For on-base emergencies, dial 911. From off-base, call 0434-30-8911.



### Education

This month's Airman Information File, U.S. Air Forces in Europe's leadership focuses on the importance of advanced education for Airmen.

Page 3



### BRAC facts

Pentagon officials recently spoke about proposed Base Realignment and Closure list changes for U.S. military installations.

Page 4



### Wingmen

These Airmen prove you don't have to be a big, dangerous sumo wrestler to pummel other people's problems. Just being there will do.

Page 13



## Vigileer Editorial Staff

**Commander,**  
31st Fighter Wing  
Brig. Gen.  
Philip M. Breedlove

**Chief, Public Affairs**  
Capt. Eric Elliott

**NCOIC, Internal  
Information**  
Staff Sgt.  
Jerome Baysmore

**Editor**  
Staff Sgt.  
Julie Weckerlein

**Staff writer**  
1st Lt.  
Nicole Dubnicay

**Student staff writer**  
Au Bree Mariz

**Public Affairs  
Volunteer**  
Martin Weckerlein

**Photo support**  
Visual Information  
Center

The Vigileer is published by Risma, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 31st Fighter Wing. This commercial enterprise, Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. The content of the Vigileer is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DoD, the Department of the Air Force or Risma of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser or user or patron. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 31st FW Public Affairs office. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Send all information by e-mail to the Vigileer at [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Faxed articles will not be accepted at all by the staff. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1360, Rm. 19. The Vigileer staff can be reached at Ext. 7344.

## U.S. Air Forces in Europe

# Airman's Information File

## Advanced education: You'll have it forever

Advanced education is something near and dear to our hearts.

The benefits of advanced education are far reaching and deeply impacting. Education is one of the many factors that make America the greatest nation.

The United States ranks number one in the world with the highest number of university students. We also spend more money per student on all levels of education than any other country.

These two rankings show the emphasis we place on education -- we realize its value and back it up with our resources.

There are many individual benefits of an advanced education. It develops skills and knowledge in an area of expertise, but it's much broader than this -- it also produces well rounded individuals.

Part of the advanced education process is to teach us how to think through problems and where to search for answers. These skills are ultimately more valuable than specific facts we learn in a core area. They can be applied to any area of our life and benefit us no matter what job we move to in the future.

In addition to specific facts and teaching us the process of learning, advanced education exposes us to new and different ideas. We come from different backgrounds and have different approaches to life based on our experiences.

As we pursue education, we learn about other cultures, gain new experiences and are able to

view things from different perspectives we never would have considered. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." Advanced education expands our horizons -- it widens our intellect.

We place a high importance on advanced education and want to make it as user friendly as possible for everyone in USAFE. We developed the Combat Education program to help every member of the USAFE team take advantage of the benefits of an advanced education. Its goal is to remove the barriers that hinder Airmen from pursuing their educational goals.

The military lifestyle and environment we live in isn't always conducive to the pursuit of advanced education. Combat Education eases the burden through innovative and flexible class scheduling. We strive to take the classes to you where you work.

The program also increases computer access through Learning Resource Centers throughout USAFE.

Advanced education is a valuable benefit to the individual, to the Air Force and to the nation. Every day is a new opportunity to deepen our knowledge and expand our horizons.

The automobile pioneer Henry Ford said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty." Keep learning and stay young -- education is something you'll carry with you forever.



*Gen. Robert H. Foglesong, right, is the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander while Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, left, is the USAFE command chief master sergeant. USAFE is an Air Force major command and the air component of the U.S. European command. Its headquarters is located at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. USAFE accomplishes its mission with its 16 installations, five of which are main operating bases situated across Europe. The command consists of about 73,000 people, including 26,000 active-duty Airmen.*

  
General Doc Foglesong

  
CMSgt Gary Coleman

# Rumsfeld announces BRAC recommendations

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle  
Air Force Print News

The secretary of defense released the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure recommendations during a press conference May 13.

The recommendations, if fully implemented, will generate an estimated net savings of nearly \$50 billion for DOD over the next two decades, officials said.

The Air Force would save an estimated \$2.6 billion through 2011, and a total of \$14.6 billion over the next 20 years.

"The BRAC recommendations announced by the Department of Defense enable us to take full advantage of the expertise of each component of our total force - active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilian - as we continue adapting the Air Force to meet the challenges of a dynamic global environment," said Michael L. Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force. "These recommendations strengthen our ability to coordinate, integrate and operate as part of the



R.D. Ward

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld talk with reporters May 12 about the Base Realignment and Closure Commission at the Pentagon.

joint warfighting team, but I also know they will significantly (affect) many people in the Air Force and in communities around these bases. We're committed to providing all the help we can to work through this together."

The purpose of the DOD's recommendations is to make the most efficient and effective use of all the department's resources, to improve operational efficiency, to save taxpayer dollars, to advance trans-

formation and enhance the combat effectiveness of the military forces, officials said.

These recommendations will not be implemented until after hearings and review by the BRAC commission, approval by the president and Congress sometime in November.

Additionally, 62 Air Force installations face varying levels of realignment under the DOD proposal. For the complete list, visit [www.af.mil/brac](http://www.af.mil/brac).

## How is the Air Force affected by BRAC?

The list of recommended Air Force closures included five active-duty and seven reserve component installations.

They are:

- Air Force Research Laboratory Mesa, Ariz.
- Brooks City-Base, Texas.
- Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.
- Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
- General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wis.
- Kulis Air Guard Station, Alaska.
- Mansfield-Lahm AGS, Ohio.
- Niagara ARS, N.Y.
- Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif.
- Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass.
- Pittsburgh ARS, Pa.
- W.K. Kellogg AGS, Mich. (Air Force Print News)

**Got spouse?** According to the Air Force Personnel Center, 59 percent of U.S. Air Force Airmen have tied the knot.

## Airmen allowed to show service colors while traveling

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

A new Air Force policy gives Airmen the choice to show their colors when traveling to and from deployment locations.

Airmen traveling to and from the U.S. Central Command Air Forces' area of responsibility have been, until recently, required to wear civilian clothing on flights in and out of the area.

Under a new policy, Airmen now have the option to wear their desert combat uniform on those flights. The policy change came after suggestions to both the chief of staff and chief master sergeant of the Air Force, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, the Air Force's uniform board superintendent.

"This started with queries to Air Force

senior (leaders) as they toured the AOR," Sergeant Athnos said. "This was about pride. Other services were coming home in uniform and experiencing tremendous support along the way from the American public. Our Airmen were in civilian clothes, and people didn't readily recognize them as Air Force personnel. They simply want the country to know they are proud of their service too."

The new policy allows Airmen to wear their uniforms when traveling inside the United States to their port of departure, so long as they fly aboard a U.S.-based airline. Airmen may also wear their uniforms when traveling to the AOR if they are flying on a military or chartered commercial aircraft. The same rules apply when Airmen come home.

Sergeant Athnos said Airmen are reminded that their uniforms must always be clean and serviceable; they must be in

compliance with dress and appearance instructions and always conduct themselves in a manner befitting the Air Force.

Sergeant Athnos said U.S. airports have plenty of security, and that the Air Force has historically allowed or even required Airmen to be in uniform when aboard aircraft.

"Besides, if you were in civilian clothes, you would still have your web gear and your mobility bags with you, and you are still hanging around the [United Services Organization,]" she said. "It's not a secret that you are in the military."

Also, part of the policy is a requirement that Airmen carry a change of civilian clothes with them if they choose to wear a uniform, and a clean uniform if they choose to wear civilian clothes. That kind of preparedness allows Airmen to adjust their appearance should the situation demand it.

## RESCON CORNER

### DUIs

**Week** 2  
**28 days** 6

**Rescon Delta**

### Sortie Board

	Hours	Sorties
<b>31st FW</b>		
Goal	<b>847.1</b>	<b>403</b>
Ahead or Behind	<b>-18.4</b>	<b>-43</b>
<b>510th FS</b>		
Goal	<b>450</b>	<b>125</b>
Ahead or Behind	<b>45.5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>555th FS</b>		
Goal	<b>397.1</b>	<b>125</b>
Ahead or Behind	<b>-63.9</b>	<b>-47</b>

## Airmen celebrate Asian-Pacific heritage

By Maj. Leah Holmstad  
16th Air Force

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month began in 1970s with the efforts of Jeanie Jew.

Her grandfather, M. Y. Lee, was one of the first Asian pioneers who helped build America.

His historic contribution included his involvement with the building and completion of the transcontinental railroad.

He later became a California businessman and tried to help the Chinese who were having difficulties in Oregon. In the process of trying to bring about peace, Mr. Lee was killed.

In 1976, the U.S. bicentennial year, Ms. Jew realized that the history and contributions of Asian-Pacific Americans, like her grandfather's, were not included in the country's celebration.

She made it her mission to make the Asian-Pacific American experience a part of US history.

In 1977, Ms. Jew lobbied and convinced Congress to set aside a period in May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage week. It expanded to a month-long celebration in 1992 when President George H. W. Bush signed it into law.

May was selected because of two important events: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in the United States (May 7, 1843) and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad (May 10, 1869).

Over the years, the Asian-Pacific American Heritage month has had various themes to help all Americans understand

the contributions of the Asian-Pacific Americans.

This year's theme, "Liberty and Freedom for All," is no different.

In fact, it is very fitting considering substantial numbers of Asian-Pacific Americans have served in America's armed forces since the 19th century, and continue to serve proudly in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, ensuring liberty and freedom for all. Here is but a small list of their contributions:

1863 - Chinese American William Ah Hang - one of the first Asian Americans to enlist in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War.

1942 - Filipino Army Sgt. Jose Calugas - earns a Medal of Honor for heroism in the Philippines during WW II, among the first Filipinos.

1943 - Korean-American Col. Young Oak Kim - first Asian-American to command a combat battalion; to date, the most highly decorated Asian-American soldier.

World War II - 442nd Regimental Combat Team - made up of Japanese Americans who came out of the mainland internment camps, was the most decorated unit of its size with seven Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations, 18,000 individual decorations, including a Congressional Medal of Honor, 47 distinguished Service Crosses, 350 Silver Stars, 810 Bronze Stars, and more than 3,600 Purple Hearts

1998 - Japanese-American Gen. Eric K. Shinseki assumes duties as the 28th Vice Chief of Staff, to date the highest ranking Asian in the U.S. military.

**Fighting Falcon Factoid:** The F-16 multi-role fighter can reach a speed of 1,500 miles per hour, with a range of 2,000 miles.

## Careless recycling causes identity theft concerns

By 1st Lt. Andrew Ignash  
2nd Air Postal Squadron,  
Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Postal officials in Europe are asking people to read before they recycle to reduce the threat of identity theft.

During the past few years, U.S. Air Forces in Europe postmasters have had great success combating litter problems with post office recycling bins; however, now there is a concern that these same recycling bins are allowing access to personal identifying information.

"I have seen people throw away bundles of unopened mail after they return from deployment," said Steve Waller, 2nd Air Postal Squadron official mail manager. "That mail can contain bank information, cred-

it card applications, and all sorts of details that you don't want people to know."

Identity theft is a fast-growing crime in the United States that has led to increased attention from financial institutions, law enforcement officials and consumers.

The problem is that mail inherently contains personal information, and some Airmen are not as careful as they should be when they discard their mail.

"Dumpster diving won't stop, so individuals should remember they are the first line of defense, and it is their responsibility to properly dispose of items containing personal infor-



**Shredding papers with personal information on them is a way to prevent identity theft.**

mation," Mr. Waller said.

One way to ensure personal information is not easily obtained is to open and screen mail at home. People should use a crosscut shredder. Anything with a person's identifier should be shredded before being thrown away.

"We would like to remind

people that they should not put private information in any public receptacle," said Master Sgt. Tracy Jones, the squadron's postal operations superintendent.

Although identity theft may seem like a minor crime, a victim may have out-of-pocket financial losses and additional costs associated with trying to restore his or her economic reputation.

"It is important that we all work together to ensure identity theft doesn't occur," Mr. Waller said. "Use your best common sense to ensure that you don't become a victim."

For more information on identity theft, Airmen can contact officials at the local security forces office. (Courtesy of USAFE News Service)



## Luau night

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Committee is holding a Luau night celebration at 6 p.m. tonight in the La Bella Vista club. Cost is \$16 for club member and \$18 for non-members. For more information, Call Ext. 4286.

## Term 5 registration

University of Maryland University College Term 5 registration runs through June 3. For more information, call Ext. 5365.

## BRAC Web site

The Air Force has established a Web site to answer questions concerning Base Realignment and Closure recommendations. The Air Force Web site, [www.af.mil/brac](http://www.af.mil/brac), will have a list of affected bases from the BRAC list as well as links to frequently asked questions, news articles, and DOD and Air Force information concerning BRAC recommendations.

## Housing closure

The Housing Management Office and Furnishings Management Office is closed May

30, June 2 and 3 for U.S. and Italian holidays.

## Promotion ceremony

The Wing Enlisted promotion ceremony is 9 a.m. June 2 in Hangar One. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Arleen Heath at Ext. 4027, or Master Sgt. Michael Freeman at Ext. 4072.

## Graduation ceremony

University of Maryland University College is holding a graduation recognition here for August and December 2004 and June 2005 graduates June 4 in the Community Activity Center. For more information, call Ext. 5365

## Med group closure

The 31st Medical Group will close May 27 for the wing down day and May 30 for Memorial Day observance. Family practice has extended care hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call Ext. 5000 to obtain an appointment during the extended care hours. For off-duty care during the closure, go to the Pordenone or closest emergency room. Non-Per-

sonnel Reliability Program Airmen may phone a nurse on the Health Care Information Line at Ext. 5000.

## Physician liaison

The 31st Contracting Squadron has an opening for a 31st Medical Group physical services liaison who provides liaison services for government beneficiaries. Applicants who meet the qualification criteria may pick up the solicitation package at the contracting office in the Aviano Industrial Area. For more information, call Ms. Ornella Bresil at Ext. 7338 or e-mail [ornella.bresil@aviano.af.mil](mailto:ornella.bresil@aviano.af.mil).

## Coding technician

The 31st Contracting Squadron has an opening for a 31st Medical Group coding technician who ensures an accurate and timely upkeeping of inpatients' and day surgery patients' health record services for government beneficiaries. Applicants who meet the qualification criteria may pick up the solicitation package at the contracting office in the Aviano Industrial Area. For more information, call Ms. Mara Zamparo at Ext. 7451.

## Talent search

A local group is looking for singers and musicians who are interested in helping develop a group at Aviano. For more information, call Sara Feldkamp or Jeff St. Sauveur at Ext. 4284.

## Field day volunteers

The Aviano Elementary School is looking for volunteers to support their field day for the third and fourth graders June 7 and first and second graders June 8. Field day is from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Area D. For more information, e-mail [meryl.smith@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:meryl.smith@eu.dodea.edu)

## Girl Scout position

Aviano Girl Scouts are currently taking applications for a volunteer position. The Overseas Committee Chair is an annually-appointed position whose function is to promote the goals of the Aviano Girl Scout community. The position is overseen by the USA Girl Scouts

Overseas. Duties include: volunteer personnel management, public relations with the Aviano community, leadership and promotion of Girl Scout programs and goals. For more information, e-mail Jessica Zika at [avainotroop17@yahoo.com](mailto:avainotroop17@yahoo.com).

## La Leche League

The La Leche League of Aviano meets at 10 a.m. June 13 in the Chapel Education Center, Bldg. 168. The group welcomes pregnant and breastfeeding mothers for an informal discussion on breastfeeding and nutrition. For more information, call 0434-75-5606 or 348-242-5373 or e-mail [LLLAviano@yahoo.com](mailto:LLLAviano@yahoo.com).

## Substitute teachers

Aviano Elementary School has openings for substitute teachers certified in elementary education, speech therapy and nursing. For more information, or to apply for a position, call the school at Ext. 5677.

## Sponsor training

The Aviano Family Support Center offers a sponsor training class from 1 to 2 p.m. each Wednesday. It assists sponsors in helping newcomers start their assignment off right. Training can be brought to individual units. Call the FSC at Ext. 5407 for more information.

## Moped law

All moped operators are required to have a valid moped license. Individuals must possess a valid U.S. driver's license with motorcycle endorsement and attend a safety class or face a 512 Euro fine.

## Housing inprocessing

All new natural gas and gasolio customers must have a valid and stamped housing contract. Gasolio customers need to allow seven to 10 days for delivery. Natural gas customers must bring the meter serial number, meter reading and allow two weeks for the gas to be turned on. To expedite gasolio deliveries and natural gas connections, customers are reminded to stop by Home Fuels before noon. Any questions or concerns may be addressed at the Home Fuels office at Ext. 5083.

## Reel Times

**Today, 5 p.m.** - "Ice Princess" Rated G - Casey has never quite fit in. She's caught between her fantasy of becoming a championship figure skater and her mother's desire for her to go to Harvard. Starring: Michelle Trachtenberg and Joan Cusack

**Today, 8 p.m.** - "Beauty Shop" Rated PG-13 - Gina Norris' egotistical boss takes credit for her work so she leaves the salon to open a shop of her own. Starring: Queen Latifa and Alicia Silverstone

**Saturday, 2 p.m.** - "Ice Princess"

**Saturday, 7 p.m.** - "The Ring Two" Rated PG-13 - Rachel Keller, and her son, Aidan, move to escape their memories of what happened. However, a strange videotape reappears and Samara returns. Starring: Naomi Watts and Simon Baker

**Sunday, 7 p.m.** - "Beauty Shop"

**Monday, 11:30** - "Pinocchio" Rated G - Geppetto finished carving a wooden puppet called Pinocchio. As Geppetto drifts off to sleep, he wishes that the puppet was a real boy.

**Wednesday, 7 p.m.** - "Beauty Shop"

**Thursday, 7 p.m.** - "The Ring Two"

**Friday, 5 p.m.** - "Robots" Rated PG - Rodney Copperbottom wants to convince his electronic brethren to come together and work toward making the world a better place. Starring: Halle Berry and Robin Williams

**Friday, 8 p.m.** - "Sahara" Rated PG-13 - A master explorer goes on a dangerous North African treasure hunt to search for "The Ship of Death." Starring: Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz

*(Titles and times are courtesy of [www.aafcs.com](http://www.aafcs.com), and are subject to change.)*

# Little Shop of Repairs

## If it's broke, they'll fix it!

By the time equipment gets into the hands of 31st Maintenance Group Air Force Repair Enhancement shop, chances are blood, sweat and tears have been shed over it.

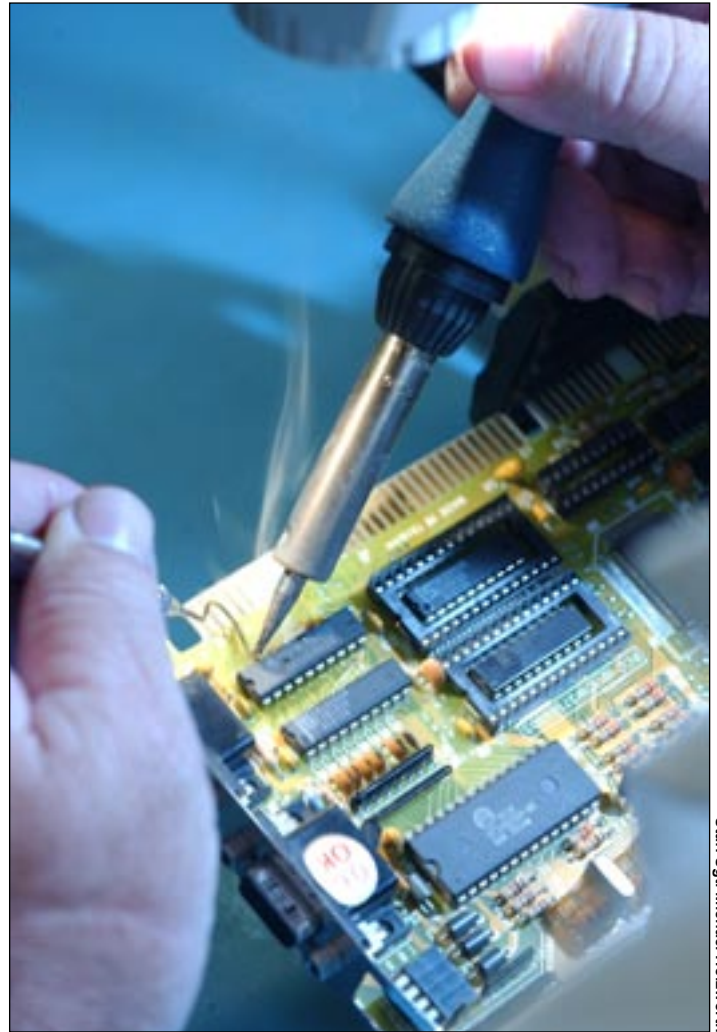
The Air Force Repair Enhancement Program shop is the place for seemingly helpless equipment doomed for the trash bin to regain life and productivity.

The AFREP shop here has the ability to repair a number of items, from complex F-16 aircraft parts to flightline support equipment to office equipment.

The program in general has proven to be very effective for the Air Force, saving the service millions of dollars each year. *(31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*



Staff Sgt. Jason Dixon and Tech. Sgt. Donnie DeRise work on an office printer at Aviano's Air Force Repair Enhancement shop here. A lot of their job involves research and trying to find alternative ways to fix things that seem unfixable.



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

### Can it be fixed?

The shop's repaired the following types of equipment: aircraft panels, test equipment, cables and wires • radomes • circuit card assemblies • laser printers • computer monitors • typewriters • video cassette recorders • microwaves • shredders • vacuum cleaners • battery chargers. **Call Ext. 8929 for more information.**

**Lost and found:** Those who've lost an item on base can call Ext. 5401 to see if the 31st Security Forces Squadron has the object.

### Honorary Squadron Commanders

Massimo Lionello (white shirt, center) sits in an F-22 simulator at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, during an Honorary Squadron Commander tour of the Washington D.C. and Langley AFB area recently. Mr. Lionello is the former vice mayor of Pordenone, and the former 510th Fighter Squadron honorary squadron commander. The HSC program lets local Italian business and political leaders become active members of Team Aviano, through traditional ceremonies, incentive rides and squadron events.



Capt. Eric Elliott





File photo

# Project Wizard: Aviano library and magic of books

The Aviano Library offers more than just books. The following information is just a bit of what this resource provides for the community.

The library is located in Area One, on the far corner of Aviano Elementary School's parking lot.

### Story Hour for Toddlers

During the school year, a Story Hour for Toddlers is held at the library 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays.

### Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program is for children up to age 13. Weekly programs for pre-Readers to third graders include both story times and crafts.

### Periodicals room

The Periodicals Room is a quiet study area for adults. The room holds 123 magazines and newspapers, as well as the Test Preparation, Chief of Staff Reading List, and the Embry-Riddle Reserve collections. Individual study carrels and comfortable reading chairs are also located there.

### Audio and visual

The DVD/Video collection includes family favorites from popular sources such as PBS, A&E, and The History Channel, as well as travel, classic films and television shows, and children's selections.

A total of 14 videos and seven DVDs

may be checked out at any given time. Customers must be 18 years or older to check out videos and DVDs.

Music CDs are kept behind the circulation desk. The index to the collection, which includes rock, jazz, country and western, classical and easy-listening titles, is located in the computer room. Up to five CDs may be checked out at any given time. Customers must be 18 and older to check out CDs.

Books-on-Tape are located in the Fiction section. Fiction and non-fiction titles are available, ranging from the Bible to the latest best-selling authors.

### Computer room

The computer room consists of a number of Windows 2000 workstations. Computers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each customer is limited to one-hour Internet time for research while other customers are waiting.

Computers must be checked out prior to use. Computer users must sign in and acknowledge that they have read and understood the computer use policies.

First-time users must complete a Computer Systems and Internet Agreement. A parent or guardian must sign the user agreement for those under age 18. Children under sixth grade must be accompanied by a parent.

Located in the children's area are 2 computers geared to children 18 months

to 8 years of age. Multi-port headphone stations allow multiple children or even parents to interact with Dr. Seuss's ABCs, Ready-to-Read with Winnie the Pooh, or other award-winning and highly recommended software programs.

Additional research tools are available through our virtual library page.

Microsoft Office Professional 2000 (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) software is available on all computers.

### Italian collection

Our Italian collection includes a wide range of books on Italy and all things Italian. There are beautiful books on art and artists, travel guides and language books, history and cultural studies on the country and individual regions. Books written by Italian authors and some fiction in Italian are also available.

### Language

The library has a variety of materials, from DVDs and CDs to videos, audiocassettes and books on learning new languages. From Italian to Japanese to English this collection has materials suitable for weekend travelers and serious students.

For more information about Project Wizard or the Aviano Base Library, visit <http://www.usafelibraries.org>, or call Exts. 5893 or 5382. (*Information courtesy of Project Wizard, a U.S. Air Forces in Europe Command and Special Interest Program.*)

### Combat Wingman

## Who's got your back?

Airman share their Combat Wingman experiences - when ordinary people stepped up to the plate to help one another.

#### Late night lifesaver

"Airman 1st Class Branlin Yarbrough, 31st Medical Support Squadron was on her way from one of the local clubs and she found a young man passed out by the street. She tried to assist him and get him home, but he didn't want help and became resistant. Unwilling to desert him she called for backup from security forces. Airman Yarbrough stayed with the person and followed as he was taken to Pordenone hospital for evaluation and treatment. She showed sustained concern and stayed with him until he was released. Truly a life-saving Wingman."

- Master Sgt. Dana Pecor, 31st MDSS

#### Carpool compassion

"On Jan. 16, Staff Sgt. Michael Ford, 712th Red Horse Flight from Camp Darby, was in Florence with two of his friends. He ran into four other Camp Darby people. At 1:30 a.m., he left and drove one of the Camp Darby folks home and ensured the three remaining had train tickets to get home safely. He arrived at his house at 2:45 a.m. At 4:30 a.m., he received a phone call from one of the three members still in Florence. Apparently, there was a train strike and they had no way home. It was very cold and there were no restaurants, clubs, or stores open so they could stay inside and warm up. They had also called other folks for a ride with no luck. Sergeant Ford immediately drove an hour back to Florence and picked the members up and brought them to Camp Darby. His actions are what COMBAT WINGMAN is all about - HOOAH!"

- Senior Master Sgt. Lorenzo Luechtefeld, 712th RHF

#### Saving the stranded

"While in route to Ramstein for TDY, Senior Airman Arocho Saltar's, 31st CS, vehicle broke down, leaving him stranded on the A4 north of Udine. Airman Saltar called Airman 1st Class Matthew McGivney for help. Airman McGivney received the call while at Piancavallo preparing to ski. Rather than stay at Piancavallo, Airman McGivney rescued Airman Saltar from his stranded location. He met-up with Airman Saltar, helped him make other arrangements by driving him around the base the next day to make flight arrangements. He went above and beyond, even transporting Airman Saltar to the airport that Monday so he could catch his flight. Airman McGivney's action showed both a concern for making the mission happen and a sense of "ownership" for a Wingman's safety."

- Lt. Col. John Jordan, 31st CS

#### Friendly flu fighter

"Our office was rocked by sickness and we lost six workers to flu and bronchitis. Tech. Sgt. Rick Chang, 31st Aeromedical Squadron stepped up by going to the base exchange and commissary, picking up get-well cards and creating personalized get-well packages (cough drops, soup, crackers, tea, honey, soda, orange juice, lemons and tangerines and Nyquil) for each person. He then took the packages to the spouses on-base or in the absence of a spouse made a personal visit to the house to let his wingman and flight members know that he was there for



These Airmen prove people don't need to be big, buff sumo wrestlers to take care of each other. It just takes commitment and compassion.

them. He lifted their spirits while helping them in time of need."

- Capt. Michael Fea, 31st AMDS

#### Constant communicator

"Recently, I was dropped off at the Treviso airport by my husband, only to find out five hours later that my flight was cancelled. I was stuck in Treviso and could not get in contact with my husband. I called Staff Sgt. Tierney Spicer, 31st Medical Operations Squadron, and she immediately went out of her way to go drive to my house and tell my husband what was going on so that he could come and get me. This is just one of several occasions that Sergeant Spicer has been there to help in a time of need."

- Senior Airman Jessica Morin, 31st MDOS

#### Providing emotional support

My supervisor became my wingman when my car got broken into during a squadron dinner in Aviano. While I was waiting for the police, Capt. Karen Croteau, 31st AMDS, took her flashlight and looked in every trash can in the area for my stolen things. She also followed me to the Carabinieri station and sat with me through a lengthy process while I filed my report. I didn't need any physical help, but the emotional support she gave in the police station for three hours really helped."

- Staff Sgt. Sarah Benton, 31st AMDS

#### Overseas "family"

Tech. Sgt. John Mitchell, 31st Communications Squadron, was singled out for the support provided to a fellow Airmen, Senior Airman Josh Underwood. Recently, Airman Underwood became a new father. This happy event was overshadowed by complications experienced by the mother. Sergeant Mitchell and his wife Mary came to Josh's aid by offering to keep the baby to allow Josh to help his ill wife in the hospital. Sergeant Mitchell was noted to have gone above and beyond acting as the family the Underwood's didn't have overseas. This impression was so great that the Underwood's family in the states felt compelled to bring this case to light, commenting that "The Mitchell's kindness and generosity had been greatly appreciated as they went to great personal sacrifice in the holiday season to incur this burden."

- Lt. Col. John Jordan, 31st CS



### Fly Bys

#### Tourist passport

Tourist passports are recommended for ease of travel throughout Europe and surrounding countries. Passports may be obtained at the Aviano Military Personnel Flight.

#### Travel Web site

Americans with travel plans must visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. Maintained by the U.S. Department of State, the Web site offers a list of places suspected of anti-American activity, as well as other information for travelers. Call the Office of Special Investigation at Ext. 7643 with questions about the site or other antiterrorism force protection measures.

#### Experience Europe

The Information Tickets and Travel office offers group and customized tour packages for one day trips, express travel, overnight and morale tours, sight-seeing and shopping trips. The office can arrange travel and reservations for squadron and private tours as well as daily and weekly tours. For more information, call Ext. 5072.

#### AF online travel

The Air Force now offers support to customers with the information they need to plan their leisure-time activities and assists them in locating the lowest possible military pricing in entertainment ticket venues and travel arrangements. For more information, log onto [www.aftravelonline.com](http://www.aftravelonline.com).



Courtesy photo

#### Name this vacation location

This week's vacation location boasts the oldest surviving parliament in the world because it was established in 930 AD. During the past century, this picturesque city has grown from a provincial trading post to a bustling cosmopolitan destination. Geothermal swimming pools dot the entire city, and shops throughout the downtown area are especially noted for woollen goods. The biggest hot spring in this country, Deildartunguhver, has a flow of 150 liters (40 gallons) of boiling water per second. Be the sixth person to name this city and the country where it is located, and win a prize. Send answers to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Congrats to Airman 1st Class James Headrick, 31st Communication Squadron, for answering last week's question with Dromoland Castle in Ireland.

**Trips for tots:** The Information Tickets and Travel office offers children's fares and specials for trips and tours. Call Ext. 5072 for details.



Courtesy photo

**Lake Barcis, Italy:** visit this location to view a picturesque scene during any season.

## Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Slovenian Rhapsody which includes Ljubljana, a castle tour and a cave exploring trip.
- Saturday - Verona and Medieval Times which includes admission and dinner.
- May 28 to 30 - Naples and the Amalfi Coast for Memorial Day weekend. Four days and three nights tour-

ing Naples, Sorrento, Pompei and the coastline.

- May 28 - Naples and the Amalfi Coast
  - May 28 - Pisa and Vinci Museums
  - May 28 - Guided Florence
  - May 30 - AquaSplash Water Park
- Check with an ITT representative for children's discounts.

For more information about ITT tours, call Ext. 5072 or 5026.



Eric Andujar, 31st Communications Squadron, returns an intercepted pass in Area D Tuesday. The 31st CS trampled the

31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron B team 33-6 boosting the 31st CS flag football team winning streak to 5.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

## COMM routes AMXS 33-6

### Aviano Intramural Flag Football standings

Team	Won	Lost
31st CS	5	1
BRAVO CO	5	1
SFSA	5	2
31 MDG	4	2
MXS B	3	2
MSS	5	3
LRS	4	4
MXSA	2	5
SFS B	1	5
603rd	0	0
AMXS	0	9

(Stats current as of May 19 from 31st Services Squadron)



Right: George Traylor, 31st CS, begins another drive against the 31st AMXS.

## Fly Bys

### Nine pin tournament

The nine pin no-tap tournament is 7 p.m. Saturday at the Aviano Bowling Center. The entry fee is \$15. For more information, call Ext. 7487.

### USAFE championships

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe's men's and women's volleyball championships run until Sunday in the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

### Personal trainer

The Dragon Fitness Center offers a new personal trainer for those looking for an exclusive one-on-one training program. One-hour sessions cost \$20. Call Jennifer at 0434-747170 or e-mail her at jennifersgym@yahoo.com to make an appointment.

### Pool passes

The Aviano pool opens Memorial Day weekend. Contact Outdoor Recreation for monthly and season passes at Ext. 8623

### Moms and tots

Moms and tots fun run is 10 a.m. May 26 at the Dragon Fitness Center track. Children receive prizes for each lap they complete. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

### Skate Park closure

The Aviano skate park is closed June 30 through July 8 for the base Fourth of July celebration.

### Fitness classes

The Aviano Community Center offers fitness and power stretch classes for \$25 per person per month. Space is limited and the center has a waiting list for the available classes. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

### Aviano Golf

The Aviano Alpine Golf Course offers individual golf lessons. Participants may also take advantage of the merchandise special order program, equipment rental and golf equipment lay-away program. For more information, call Ext. 7386.

### Airmen and awards

# What does it take to be recognized?

**By Chief Master Sgt. Cathi Durick**  
*65th Air Base Wing,  
Lajes Field, Azores*

The question lingers: What does it take to be recognized? For Airmen and noncommissioned officers, recognition can be a confusing issue, so let's talk quarterly awards.

What does it take to get recognized? For Airmen and NCOs, recognition as a quarterly or annual award winner can be a bullet on a performance report; for senior NCOs, a stratifying statement for promotion.

As we progress in our careers, competing against peers and winning may be a deciding factor in assignments, Stripes For Exceptional Performers promotions, senior NCO board scores, in-residence professional military education and more.

Over the years, and it has been almost 26 of them for me, I have been on hundreds of boards and have developed a sense of what it takes to be an award winner. Job knowledge and performance are the key here.

Did you affect your work center, flight, squadron or major command by doing something faster, better or cheaper? Just being key to the squadron winning an award doesn't really say anything. What did you do, or what did your Airman do, to guarantee that award?

Quantifying is important but don't exaggerate. I would like to see all the money and manpower we supposedly saved the Air Force over the past several years that I have seen cited in award packages. With some of these exaggerations, the Air Force would be able to fund a lot of quality-of-life projects.

All nominees do great things on their primary job, but winning a tie-breaker is usually because the "other" categories are strong. Off-duty activities are important in your overall score. Professionals are distinguished by their skill and experience.

What better way to enhance these traits than to get involved in volunteer work and self-improvement?

Volunteering on base and in the community is a sure sign of leadership and initiative, and there are always opportunities to volunteer as key workers for local events.

Yet, as I was sitting in an organization meeting a couple of weeks ago, a young technical sergeant all but begged for volunteers for different events while the Airmen she was addressing looked at the shine on their boots. Volunteer programs give our folks opportunities to get involved and contribute.

Self-improvement through off-duty education is really important. Don't think the board members can't deduce you have been carrying around the same 38 credit hours toward a future Community College of the Air Force degree.

I have seen annual awards and enlisted performance report bullets with the same number of credits for a year or so. Not an impressive accomplishment and more often it hurts rather than helps. Get going on your education.

Never say you did things that you didn't; the board members have seen a lot of bullets and probably know the difference. Besides, the award is only worth it if you really did the work.

I realize some of you will always have the perception that the quarterly and annual award process rewards the competitive person at the expense of the "hard worker" and misplaces the recognition.

I give my vote to the professional – the individual who excels at his or her job, takes initiative, contributes to the community and better himself or herself. That is the essence of professionalism.

Want to win? Then distinguish yourself from the pack and make an impact. Make yourself competitive for an award that matches your talents, interests and strengths.

Supervisors, when your troop approaches you and asks, "Why didn't you nominate me?," be ready to defend your criteria for what it takes to represent your section, flight or command at the next level, then tell them what it takes to win!



### The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support: junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

#### Submission info

We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

**Commentaries:** Writers can send commentaries to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Kudos:** Aviano members can send kudos to [Vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:Vigileer@aviano.af.mil) with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

## Kudos: Recognizing Those Who Serve

Congratulations to the following Aviano captains who were recently selected for promotion: Sarah Clevend, 16th Air Force; Eric Suci, 16th AF; Michael Goeringer, 31st Communications Squadron; Roxanne Skinner, 31st CS; Peter Greenburg, 555th Fighter Squadron; John Vargas, 555th FS; Richard Greene, 31st Operations Support Squadron; David Meissen, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron; Mark Mitchum, 510th Fighter Squadron; Mark Wisher, 510th FS; George Wyse, 510th FS; Scott Walker, 31st Fighter Wing.